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1887

EASTER BLOSSOMS.

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BLOSSOMS, blossoms, so dainty and fair,
Tossing your heads in the fragrant air,
Look down and tell me what joy you know,
That quivers and thrills in your petals so.
Is it for joy of the Easter day,
That you bend and swing in the breeze so gay?

Tell me, you blossoms, so pure and white,
And you that blush in the warm sunlight,
Is it for thought of the time to be,
When cherries shall swing from the branches free
And the delicate blush of coral spread
On the apple's cheek, in deepening red?

Or is it for love of the gowns you wear,
So soft and fair; or your perfume rare
That you flutter and stir at the lightest breeze
Or is it to beckon the honey bees
To taste of your nectar. Tell me, pray,
Why are you all so glad to-day?

And the birds, too, coming from far away,
To perch in the branches, what do they say?
Is it for love of you they sing,
Or is it to show a radiant wing,
That they flutter, and sway your petals so,
Making them fall in a shower of snow?

THEY twitter and chirp, and softly trill
Their full sweet notes, that the heart is still
To listen, and catch the melody,
The quaver, and tremulous ecstacy
That tells of joy in each little breast.
Deep, and tenderly sweet confest.

Surely a love so deep and strong,
Telling its might in such rapturous song,
Must be more than your faces fair
Or frail light forms could awaken there
Tell me, blossoms, you can but say,
'Tis for the joy of the Easter-day."

'Tis but the joy that a whole world thrills,
That all things living, with gladness fills
The light and love of the Easter-tide,
The praise of a Saviour glorified,
All rejoicing the self-same way,
To welcome the blessed Easter-day.

Then swing, you blossoms, happily swing;
And sing, you birds, from your full hearts, sing;
Never was time so full of bliss,
Never was joy so great as this.
Dearer than joy, and all beside,
Heaven is near at the Easter-tide.

ANNIE C. MCQUEEN.

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